

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

Marines rescue seven U.S. prisoners

by Peter Baker and Mary Beth Sheridan,
Washington Post Foreign Service

NUMANIYAH, Iraq, April 13 — U.S. Marines today rescued seven American soldiers held captive by Iraqi forces for the last three weeks and flew them to safety, bringing a successful end to a prisoner drama that had consumed senior military officers.

A light armored detachment of Marines on its way north to clear away holdouts in Tikrit, former president Saddam Hussein's ancestral home town, burst in on the captured U.S. soldiers in a private house after being tipped off by local Iraqis. The seven were all in good condition, although three were recovering from bullet wounds suffered during their capture.

"We feel like we won the lottery of life," Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Young, 26, a helicopter pilot from suburban Atlanta held since March 24, said in exultation as he was ferried to Kuwait aboard a C-130 Hercules transport plane.

The news exhilarated Army and Marine officers in Iraq and political leaders in Washington.

"Today is a great day for the families, comrades, loved ones of the seven missing in action who are free," President Bush said during a brief, unscheduled talk with reporters at the White House. "I'm really pleased."

Young's fellow AH-64A Apache Longbow pilot, Chief Warrant Officer David Williams, 31, of Fort Hood, Tex., was also found today.

The other recovered soldiers were from the Army's 507th Maintenance Company convoy that was ambushed in the southern crossroads city of Nasiriyah on March 23: Sgt. James Riley, 31, of Pennsauken, N.J.; Spec. Shoshana Johnson, 30, of El Paso; Spec. Joseph Hudson, 23, of Alamogordo, N.M.; Spec. Edgar Hernandez, 21, of Mission, Tex.; and Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23, of suburban Wichita.



Spec. Shoshana Johnson, left, receives a hug by Chief Warrant Officer David Williams after landing in Kuwait City, Sunday, April 13, 2003. The two U. S. Soldiers along with five others have been held captive by Iraqi forces since March 23. All were safely rescued April 13. (AP Photo/Sgt. Arledge/Pool)

Their colleague, Pfc. Jessica Lynch, 19, of Palestine, W.Va., was rescued from an Iraqi hospital in a raid April 1.

The recovery of the seven prisoners came as a column of Marines stabbed into the southern outskirts of Tikrit, pounding away at paramilitary forces from the air and ground to seize control of the last stronghold outside U.S. or British control. Despite the battle with the irregulars, reports from within the city 90 miles north of Baghdad indicated that most organized military forces had fled and that tribal leaders wanted to surrender to U.S. commanders.

The Marines, organized in Task Force Tripoli, moved toward Tikrit

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Marines rescue seven U.S. prisoners continued

after receiving orders to bring a swift and decisive end to any remaining organized opposition. "Movement up is faster than we thought," said Col. Larry Brown, the operations chief for the Marines in Iraq. "Resistance is light."

Importance of Tikrit

Capturing Tikrit could close out large-scale military operations in Iraq and turn the attention of U.S. forces more fully to establishing security, repairing infrastructure and rebuilding a working administration after the fall of Hussein's Baath Party government. It also would free U.S. troops to intensify their search for weapons of mass destruction and for Hussein and his top lieutenants, most of whom remain unaccounted for.

Some U.S. officials say they believe Hussein was killed in an airstrike days before U.S. forces rolled into Baghdad. Army Gen. Tommy R. Franks, the overall commander of U.S. and British troops in the Persian Gulf region, said on CNN's "Late Edition" that U.S. authorities possessed a DNA sample of Hussein to help in an eventual identification.

U.S. officials disclosed that one top Hussein associate had been captured trying to flee to Syria. Watban Ibrahim Hasan, a half-brother of ousted president, was in U.S. custody, the officials said. His apparent flight toward Syria served to escalate U.S. complaints about the government in Damascus.

Bush charged that Syria has chemical weapons and has been sheltering fugitives from Hussein's fallen government. "We believe there are chemical weapons in Syria," Bush told reporters. "Each situation will require a different response and, of course . . . first things first. We're in Iraq now, and the second thing about Syria is that we expect cooperation."

Bush demanded that Syria "not harbor any Baathists, any military

officials, any of the people who need to be held to account" for their actions in Iraq.

In response, a Syrian official accused Bush of trying to distract from the looting and chaos brought on by his military campaign in Iraq. "It's been a campaign of disinformation and misinformation . . . about Syria since even before the war started," Imad Moustapha, deputy chief of mission in Washington, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

While full-scale war appeared to be abating, small-scale attacks on U.S. forces persisted. Sixteen U.S. soldiers were wounded when a grenade was thrown into a compound in the southern Baghdad suburb of Mahmediyah.

A contingent from the 101st Airborne Division was clearing a former police headquarters and emerging from the compound when an unknown assailant lobbed the grenade over a wall, according to Brig. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley. Four soldiers were flown by helicopter to a medical facility while two others were evacuated by land.

Two soldiers suffered serious injuries, one to the eye and one to the groin, according to the division surgeon, Lt. Col. Richard Thomas.

Despite the incident, tentative signs emerged that the chaos that has engulfed Baghdad was easing somewhat. A few shops opened, and the U.S. military reported no significant exchanges of fire.

'Today Is More Normal'

"Today is more normal than yesterday, and the day before yesterday," said Effir Amrel, 21, a barber whose shop opened for the first time since Hussein's rule collapsed Wednesday. On the street around him in the middle-class neighborhood of Karadeh, a few shops sold fruit, nuts and candy. Two restaurants did a brisk business in kebabs.

Cars piled with mattresses and blankets filled roads into the city, signaling the return of families that had fled during the bombing.

Still, signs of crisis remained everywhere. The few shops that were open had doubled or tripled prices on their scarce goods. One young vendor selling eggs from a sidewalk stand said the price had jumped 100 percent, with each 30-egg tray costing 5,000 dinars, or roughly \$2, a hefty sum for workers who take home \$15 a month. Two pounds of oranges at a nearby produce stand fetched 2,500 dinars, or about a dollar, three times the prewar price.

Rasul Majid, 18, the egg vendor, defended the higher prices, saying it was nearly impossible to bring goods into the city. "The road is closed, and there's no electricity," he said.

US MILITARY IRAQ WAR POW



Army Spc. Edgar Hernandez Army Spc. Joseph Hudson Army Spc. Shoshawna Johnson Pfc. Patrick Miller Sgt. James Riley

Spc. Edgar Hernandez, from left, of Mission, Texas, Army Spc. Joseph Hudson of Almagordo, N.M., Army Spc. Shoshana Johnson of Fort Bliss, Texas, Army Pfc. Patrick Miller of Park City, Kan., and Army Sgt. James Riley of Pennsauken, N.J., are shown in this combination of photos from video seen on Iraqi Television, Sunday, March 23, 2003. The Pentagon confirmed the identities of the seven American prisoners of war released Sunday, April 13, 2003, south of Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, as the two Apache helicopter pilots and five Army soldiers from Fort Bliss, Texas, who had been shown on Iraqi television after their convoy was ambushed March 23. (AP Photo/Iraqi TV via APTN, File)

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Marines rescue seven U.S. prisoners continued

Shop owners said they would be hard-pressed to restock their shelves, because warehouses had been looted and refrigerated goods had spoiled without power. With so little to buy, customers plunked down their money at the produce stand for soft, over-ripe tomatoes and pocked apples. Long lines formed outside the few bakeries making bread.

As the burning and looting appeared to be winding down, a few columns of smoke rose above the city, as the capital's arts academy and the Ministry of Trade burned. At mosques, religious leaders have started warning worshipers that looting is wrong and should be stopped. U.S. soldiers and Marines have stepped up patrols to discourage pillaging.

Scores of protesters gathered this afternoon outside the downtown Palestine Hotel, full of foreign journalists, demanding resumption of electrical and water service and security from looters. All around the city, residents complained about how the war and its aftermath had brought life to a standstill.

"I cry for my country — without electricity, without food. If we want to buy meat, there are no refrigerators," said Jamal Ibrahim, 46, a chemical engineer.

While U.S. commanders focused on ways to improve living conditions, the recovery of the American POWs captured much of their attention. In the three weeks since the soldiers were taken prisoner, U.S. forces had engaged in a painstaking, if until now fruitless, hunt in hopes of launching a commando raid to save them, as they did for Lynch.

Instead, today's rescue appeared to be serendipity. As the Marines bound for Tikrit approached the small town of Sammara, about 70 miles north of Baghdad, Iraqis informed them that U.S. soldiers were being held in a nearby house from which the top-ranking officials had fled. One of the Marines who burst into the house to find the prisoners said the tip came from a civilian. Senior officers, however, said it came from police officers assigned to keep custody of the Americans after their superiors fled the approaching Marines.

"The guards evidently were deserted by their officers, and the guards themselves brought the prisoners of war to the [attention of the] Marines," said Lt. Col. Nick Morano, senior watch commander at Marine headquarters southeast of Baghdad. "All the soldiers are in good condition. A couple of them have wounds, but they're okay."

The rescue prompted a wave of emotion at U.S. military installations around Iraq. When Morano announced it at the Marine headquarters operations center, applause broke out. Other Marine officers who later met the prisoners as they were flown by helicopter to an airfield at Numaniyah, about 100 miles southeast of Baghdad, hugged the soldiers as they stepped off gingerly and were rushed onto a waiting C-130 to be taken to Kuwait.

The freed prisoners appeared tentative as they emerged, some still in the yellow- or blue-striped prison pajamas the Iraqis forced them to wear, others having switched into Marine jumpsuits or other

clothes. The three recovering from gunshot wounds — Johnson, Hudson and Hernandez — all underwent surgery by Iraqi doctors but were to be seen by U.S. physicians to evaluate their condition.

All moved under their own power except Johnson, who was shot in both feet and required help walking. Though they were kicked and beaten when first apprehended, the soldiers reported little physical abuse after that at the hands of their captors.

"I'm happy I'm alive," said Hudson, whose wife, Natalie, and 5-year-old daughter, Cameron, were waiting for him in El Paso. "Today is the second-happiest day of my life, next to my daughter's birth."

As their plane touched down in Kuwait, an airman announced, "Welcome to Kuwait!" and everyone whooped and cheered. Some of the prisoners could not hold back their tears. They shook the hands of everyone they saw and begged their Marine escorts to come with them.

"Don't leave us!" Williams shouted at them plaintively over the roar of the C-130 engine.

Nasiriyah, the city 100 miles north of Kuwait where five of the seven were captured, was briefly the turkey shoot of the war, nicknamed "Ambush Alley" by the troops who had to make their way through it. Just north of there, in the town of Shatrah, residents told U.S. Special Forces troops today that at least four American soldiers were held in a private home in the town and the corpse of another was dragged through the streets behind a donkey and cart.

The only evidence found at the house was a scarf knotted like a handcuff. A local doctor told the troops that he washed the body of the dead American and that Iraqi forces buried him in a shallow grave at a garbage dump. Other Americans recovered the body a week ago, the doctor said.

His account corresponds to the case of a Marine who fell out of a vehicle that was attacked in the early days of the war and was believed to have been killed. Marine officers said they found his body in Shatrah about a week ago, but were never able to confirm that his body was paraded through the streets.

For the soldiers rescued today, it was becoming increasingly clear how close they came to a similar fate. "It hasn't sunk in completely yet, sir," said Riley, hewing to military protocol even when talking with a journalist.

But he rejected the notion that he and his colleagues did anything extraordinary. "We're not heroes, sir," he insisted. "We're not the heroes. The heroes are the ones who came and got us. All the people who have been fighting all the way through the conflict and fought to come get us. The people who died."

Sheridan reported from Baghdad. Correspondents Rick Atkinson and Peter Finn with U.S. forces in Iraq and staff writer Terry M. Neal in Washington contributed to this report.

U.S. battles Saddam loyalists in Tikrit

by Borzou Daragahi

TIKRIT, Iraq (AP) - Backed by warplanes and helicopters, U.S. troops poured into Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit and fought pockets of hard-core defenders Monday in a bid to crush the last major stronghold of Iraqi resistance.

The presidential palace was seized without a fight, the military said, and large numbers of U.S. troops were visible in central Tikrit in the afternoon.

"There was less resistance than we anticipated," said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, U.S. Central Command spokesman, noting that Tikrit's defenders had been subjected to punishing airstrikes over the past several days. He said Marines attacked Tikrit from the south, west and north, capturing a key Tigris River bridge in the center of town.

U.S. forces suspected about 2,500 die-hards of the Republican Guard and the paramilitary Fedayeen - and possibly officials from the Iraqi president's regime - were holed up in the city.

By late afternoon, however, people began to venture out of their homes and walk in the streets, with families and children enjoying a beautiful spring afternoon. Shops remained closed. There were no reports of looting.

In the north of the city Brig. Gen. John Kelly of the 1st Marine Division, commander of the Tikrit operation, said the stronghold was "... the heartland of the beast."

"The beast is Saddam Hussein," he said. "If you were a committed regime murder guy, I guess you'd come here."

Kelly described what he called a pattern of behavior in cities that the coalition forces have taken over.

"It was a ghost town when we first arrived," he said. "Then they (residents) start sticking their noses out and approaching us and start pointing out where Baathists are, and the Fedayeen and the caches of weapons."

Some of the Marines in the street were wearing pink blossoms on their uniforms from flowers given them by residents of the neighborhood.

Unlike in other major Iraqi cities, however, the many portraits, banners and statues of Saddam remained undamaged.

"We're not going to touch his picture. He's our leader," said Abdul Rahouf Khaled, a construction leader trying to get out of town. Khaled said he wanted the country's next leader to be "someone who is Iraqi and elected by Iraqis."

Abdul al-Jabouri, part of a large group of men gathered at a gas station, said: "We like Saddam Hussein and he has educated our people and we will support him to the end."

However, another man approached and said, "Long live the United States."



Smoke billows from a bombardment as women work in the fields in Tikrit, Iraq, Sunday, April 13, 2003. The city is Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's home village and the base of the Tikriti tribe. (AP Photo/Kevin Frayer)

Some Republican Guard and Special Republican Guard forces abandoned their equipment in recent days, said Capt. Frank Thorp, a Central Command spokesman.

He said U.S. forces to the south and west of the city had created checkpoints to prevent possible regime leaders from escaping. He said what fighting there had been fierce, but there was no information on casualties on either side.

At a recently established checkpoint in the north of the city, U.S. troops stopped cars Monday and searched thoroughly for weapons.

As a Marine shook his head in incomprehension, an Arab resident tried to explain that the three Kalashnikov rifles in his pickup truck were there because he was afraid of looting.

Asked where all the Baathists were, taxi driver Jamal Ahmad said, "they disappeared, they evaporated."

Marine First Lt. Greg Starace of Paramus N.J., said his unit entered the city limits just after dawn Sunday. He estimated at least 3,000 American troops were in Tikrit. Tanks and Humvees rumbled through, and a line of armored vehicles was parked in front of a bazaar.

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Two Afghan soldiers gunned down

by Todd Pitman

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Two Afghan soldiers were shot and killed in southern Afghanistan, while unidentified attackers threw hand-grenades at Italian troops on patrol in the east, the U.S. military said Monday.

No Italians were injured in Saturday's grenade attack near the eastern city of Khost, the military said in a statement from its headquarters at Bagram Air Base, north of the capital.

Two grenades were thrown, but one did not detonate. Italian troops detained one person after the incident.

In a separate attack on Sunday, one rocket was fired toward a coalition base in Orgun in eastern Paktika province. No damage or casualties were reported, the statement said.

Also on Sunday, two Afghan soldiers allied to coalition troops were shot and killed near the troubled town of Spinboldak, in southern Kandahar province near the Pakistan border. It was unclear in what circumstances the deaths occurred.

Afghan authorities say remnants of the former Taliban regime, ousted in a U.S.-led war in 2001, are reorganizing in an effort to destabilize President Hamid Karzai's government.

Firefights with suspected Taliban fighters and security forces have broken out in recent weeks in northwest Badghis province as well as Paktika and Kandahar in the south.

U.S. military outposts scattered across eastern and southern Afghanistan frequently come under rocket attack, but few casualties have been reported from such attacks.

Coalition forces have about 11,500 soldiers in Afghanistan to hunt down Taliban holdouts their allies. The United States is providing the backbone of the force with about 8,500 troops. Italy has 1,000

soldiers in the coalition, with a 500-strong contingent operating from Camp Salerno base in Khost.

In Kabul, a spokesman for the 5,000 strong international peacekeeping force that patrols the capital said explosives ordnance disposal experts were investigating the cause of an explosion that rattled the city's eastern outskirts Sunday night.

"First reports talked about a rocket attack but this is definitely not true," said Lt. Col. Thomas Lobbering.

"It was an explosive device ... But the details, what type of device it was, whether it was a mine or whatever, that's still under investigation."



An Afghan soldier shows a hole made by a rocket in Kabul, Afghanistan, late Sunday, April 13, 2003. Police at the scene said an explosion was caused by the rocket that hit on the eastern edge of the Afghan capital. The target was not immediately known. The Afghan authorities say Taliban holdouts and their allies have been staging stepped up attacks to try to destabilize the government of President Hamid Karzai. (AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

U.S. battles Saddam loyalists in Tikrit continued

"As soon as we got here we had some engagements against some small pockets of resistance," he said.

The morning combat came after a night of heavy bombing and after Marines made several forays in and out of the city Sunday, drawing occasional small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

The assaults Sunday did not encounter the intense battle that once seemed likely. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said there was "no organized resistance" in Tikrit.

"A lot of people have disappeared, including the leadership of the Baath party," Rumsfeld told MSNBC on Sunday. "There are people (in Tikrit) who do not have a lot of admiration for the Baathist regime ... who are helping" the Americans."

The Americans destroyed a tank column moving outside the town Sunday and killed a platoon of 15 to 20 Iraqis who attacked the Marines' armored vehicles, the operation's commander, Kelly told a

New York Times correspondent.

Cobra helicopters also destroyed six fully loaded but unmanned anti-aircraft guns on the city outskirts before U.S. troops in light armored vehicles began moving into Tikrit on Monday morning, the Marines said.

The Arab TV network Al-Jazeera reported that tribal groups in Tikrit offered to negotiate peace with U.S. forces and hand over some Baath Party leaders in town.

Tikrit, 90 miles north of Baghdad, is the last major city with substantial resistance by Iraqi forces. Saddam was born in the area, and many members of his inner circle come from the region.

After the fall of Baghdad last week, U.S. commanders cautioned that Saddam's regime might try to hold on ferociously to Tikrit. But they played down that possibility in recent days because of desertions and damage from sustained airstrikes.

For logistics units, events in Iraq underscore need to be battle ready

Story and photo by Franklin Fisher, Stars and Stripes

Weeks before U.S. and British armored columns began racing across Iraq, a U.S. logistics convoy in South Korea rumbled out of a unit motor pool shortly after midnight. The convoy was heading north through the cold night to train with combat troops it would support in wartime; practicing the mission the soldiers' counterparts in Iraq soon would have to accomplish.

For Pfc. Demond Hicks and his fellow soldiers of the 194th Maintenance Battalion, the nearly four-hour trip from Camp Humphreys near Pyongtaek to a 2nd Infantry Division training area was uneventful.

Hicks, a fuel specialist, sat between the driver and another soldier in the cab of a five-ton fuel truck. A chance to chat. A few scheduled rest stops. And no worries about a wrong turn — just follow the vehicle ahead.

So news that a U.S. Army logistics unit in Iraq was ambushed March 23 near Nasiriyah came as a sobering reminder that “rear-area” support troops need to be battle-ready.

Logistics units support the “war fighters” — the rifle squads, the armored columns, the fighter and bomber squadrons — with the supply, maintenance and transportation backup they need to keep fighting. They're known as CSS troops, for combat service support. They haul the ammunition, food and fuel to the war fighters. They repair the vehicles, aircraft, radios and other hardware used in battle. And they work as cooks, clerks and in a host of other CSS jobs.

“The ambush of that logistics convoy in Iraq did certainly punctuate



Logistics soldiers of Army's 20th Support Group move along street at Camp Henry in Taegu, South Korea last May during training session in techniques of base defense. Unit leaders say events in Iraq show how important such battle-focused training is for logistics troops.

the fact that logistics troops can find themselves in harm's way,” said Army Maj. Gen. Jeanette K. Edmunds, commander of the U.S. military's main logistics unit in South Korea, the 19th Theater Support Command in Taegu.

And “that punctuating only underscores the appropriateness of the kind of battle-focused training that we owe our soldiers here in Korea,” said Edmunds, who since taking command last summer has set training as her top unit priority.

“Logistics soldiers operate throughout the depth of a battle space — from the front lines to the rear area,” Edmunds said.

“There is no room for a ‘rear-area’ mind-set, unless that mind-set is one that acknowledges that in war, being in the rear area or in the vital logistics lines of communication may well be the most dangerous

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U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Jason Thornhill, from Stanford, Connecticut, stands guard in front of Saddam Hussein's main palace in Tikrit on April 14, 2003. U.S. Marines swooped on Saddam Hussein's hometown in a dawn raid on Monday, seized control of the town center and began rooting out last clusters of do-or-die fighters, some of them foreign volunteers. Reuters photo.



For logistics units, events in Iraq underscore need to be battle ready continued

place to be,” Edmunds said. “You don’t have to be a superpower to realize that the quickest way to make your opponent run out of combat capability is to keep him from getting his sustainment.”

A U.S. commando raid later rescued Army supply clerk Pfc. Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital in Nasiriyah and recovered 11 bodies, nine of them Americans. The Pentagon said eight of the dead were in the ambushed convoy, though it is not yet known whether the ambush caused their deaths.

Seven of the dead were members of Lynch’s unit, the 507th Maintenance Company based at Fort Bliss, Texas. Another was a member of a 3rd Division support battalion out of Fort Stewart, Ga., a unit that also was in the convoy. The body of a ninth American has yet to be identified. Five members of the 507th Maintenance Company remain listed as prisoners of war.

“Made me realize anything could happen, no matter what” your military job is, Hicks said.

“I read that there was a convoy that was ambushed and there were some POWs,” said Spc. Marlene Butler, 21, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 20th Support Group in Taegu. Like Lynch, Butler’s a supply clerk.

“Wow, it happened to her,” Butler said of Lynch. “I thought, ‘It’s not gonna happen to me.’ But now I realize, it can happen to anyone in reality, and I’m a soldier, and I need to quit thinking it’s not going to happen like that.”

“It’s paying dividends because our soldiers are actually getting to see some of the issues, real-world, that we really train on,” said Army Lt. Col. Kevin McRee, commanding officer of the 194th

Maintenance Battalion, Hicks’ unit.

Making logistics troops realize that they’re as potentially vulnerable as combat troops has emerged within the past year as a training concern for leaders in U.S. logistics units throughout South Korea.

“I’ve been told that the enemy normally tries to take out the support first, so they’re going to be attacking us,” said Pfc. Kristian Lewellen, 23, a Chinook helicopter mechanic in McRee’s battalion. “So I understand that we’re going to be the first ones to be hit, especially being in an aviation unit.”

To combat any complacent “rear area” mind-set, some units last year began adding “battle-focused” training.

In Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 20th Support Group, troops practiced taking and processing enemy prisoners of war, moving in formation when under fire, and setting up defensive perimeters, among other battle routines.

As the company continues that training this year, sergeants likely will draw on the Iraq war for examples of what logistics troops need to be ready for.

“You want to give that information to say, ‘You need to stay sharp. You need to pay attention to detail,’” said HHC’s 1st Sgt. Stephen Widener. “What does complacency get you? It might get you captured. It might cause you or your battle buddy to be killed.”

“Even if,” Edmunds said, “we don’t feel a high likelihood that we’ll be going to war here in Korea” logistics troops stationed in South

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U.S. forces have in custody Saddam Hussein’s half brother after he was captured in Iraq near the Syrian border; U.S. officials said April 13, 2003. Watban Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti was captured in the last several days by non-American elements and turned over to the U.S. military, U.S. officials told Reuters. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein sits between his half-brothers Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti (L) Watban Ibrahim Hassan al-Tikriti (R) in Baghdad in this December 27, 1999 Reuters file photo.

Rumsfeld says U.S. will find Iraqi WMD materials

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, USA, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 13, 2003 — Saddam Hussein's scientific adviser surrendered to U.S. forces Saturday, proclaiming that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction.

"Do you believe it?" NBC's "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert asked Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on today's edition.

"No, goodness no," the secretary responded.

Rumsfeld said he is convinced the Iraqi regime has squirreled its weapons of mass destruction around the country. He said the United States has evidence of Iraq's chemical and biological activities as well as the restart of its nuclear program.

"Iraqis have learned to live in an inspection environment — they hid things, they've done it well, they have things underground and well dispersed," Rumsfeld observed.

He said the coalition will need help from Iraqis if it is to find all of Iraq's hidden secrets. "We won't find anything until we find people who tell us where the things are," he said.

Rumsfeld noted that finding Iraqi scientists with knowledge of Saddam's weapons program is important to the coalition.

But, he said, the coalition is first concentrating on winning the war. He noted that finding these weapons is "clearly on our priority list of things to be done, but it's not something you spend much time doing when you're in a war and you're trying to stop the violence and stop the killing."

On reports of looting in Baghdad and other cities, the secretary said as coalition forces make their presence known in Iraq, the local people will come forward and start "assisting, cooperating and restoring order."

"It is the presence of coalition forces that give people enough confidence that there is going to be order to allow the local people

For logistics units, events in Iraq underscore need to be battle ready continued

Korea can move on to their next assignment "and find themselves immediately in a unit that is heading to Afghanistan or Southwest Asia, where they will certainly be in an active combat zone — that is no time to start learning the basic soldier skills that will keep you alive."

"If Kim Jong Il plans on shooting something down this way," Butler said of North Korea's leader, "it doesn't matter where you are, you're gonna have to fight. Basically, you're gonna have to get out there and secure the perimeter with everybody else. You're going to get out there eventually.

"So I have to be on my p's and q's," Butler said. "'Stay alert — stay alive.' Watch my surroundings, take the training that I've received from my unit ... and use it."

to come and say, 'Let's get our arms around this and get it going,'" he said.

"Every hour that goes by, it's getting better, and more peaceful and more orderly in that country."

Rumsfeld responded to accusations that coalition forces allowed the looting in the Baghdad Museum of Antiquities, where thousands of historic pieces dating back to early civilization are reported missing or damaged.

"We didn't allow it — it happened," Rumsfeld said. "And that's what happens when you go from a dictatorship with repressed order to something that is going to be different. There is a transition period, and no one is in control.

"Disorder happens whenever there is a transition ... We've seen it in our own country, and it always breaks your heart. It isn't something that someone allows or doesn't allow. We know there are people who do bad things," he said.

Rumsfeld said he has no idea if Saddam Hussein is alive or dead. "There are people around who say he's dead, there are people around who say he's injured, and there are people who say they don't know. I'm one of the latter," he said. "I don't have enough tested sources to say he's dead."

Rumsfeld said the former Iraq leader would eventually turn up somewhere. "He's either dead or he's going to be caught. We'll find him, the world will find him," he pointed out. "He's not a person that has a lot of friends in the Arab world or anywhere else."

The secretary began his day with good news that seven soldiers listed by the Pentagon as prisoners of war were recovered today near Tikrit.

"Basically they're in good shape, we're delighted and, of course, we're still anxious and concerned about those that are still missing," Rumsfeld said.

*Makeshift white flags
are often waved at
American soldiers.
(Baltimore Sun photo
by Elizabeth Malby)*



Deck of cards helps identify regime's most wanted

by Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 12, 2003 – Coalition forces in Iraq are using a specially created deck of 55 playing cards to identify the “most wanted” members of Saddam Hussein’s regime.

News reports today indicated that Amir Hamudi Hasan Al- Sadi, Saddam’s presidential scientific adviser, shown on “7” of diamonds card No. 55, has turned himself in to coalition authorities.

Coalition officials have identified a list of 55 key regime leaders they intend to pursue, kill or capture, Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy director of operations at U.S. Central Command, said in Qatar

April 11. “The list does not exclude leaders who may have already been killed or captured,” he noted.

Command officials designed the cards displaying the names, faces and titles of the Iraqis to help soldiers and Marines in the field should contact occur, Brooks said. Each deck has two Jokers, one showing Iraqi military ranks and the other, Arab tribal titles. Saddam Hussein is depicted on the Ace of Spades.

The list is also being distributed throughout Iraq in other forms, such as posters and handbills, which will become more and more visible over the coming days, Brooks said.

IRAQI TOP 55

Name—Position

1. Saddam Hussein—President of Iraq/CINC of Military
2. Qusay Hussein—SSO, SRG & RGFC Commander
3. Uday Hussein—Saddam Fedayeen Commander
4. Abid Hamid Mahmud Al Tikriti—Presidential Secretary (WMD Release Authority)
5. Al Hasan Majid—Pres. Advisor, Fmr South Reg Cmdr
6. Izzat Ibrahim al Duri—Vice Chair of the RCC, North Reg Cmdr
7. Hani Abd Latif Tilfa al Tikriti—SSO Director
8. Kamal Mustafa Abdallah Sultan Tikriti—RG Secretary
9. Barzan Abd Ghafur Sulayman al Tikriti—SRG Commander
10. Muzahim Sa'b Hassan al Tikriti—Air Defense Force Commander
11. Ibrahim Ahmad Abd al Sattar Muhammad al Tikriti—Armed Forces Chief of Staff
12. Sayf al Din Fulayyih Hassan Taha al Rawi—RGFC Chief
13. Rafi Abd Latif al Tilfah—DGS Director
14. Tahir Jalil Habbush al Tikriti—IIS Director
15. Hamid Raja Shalah al Tikriti—Air Force Commander
16. Abd al Tawab Mullah Huwaysh—OMI Director (WMD Production)
17. Aziz Salih Numan—BP Regional Cmdr/Cmdr BP Militia - Reg Cmd
18. Muhammad Hazmaq al Zubaydi—Central Euphrates Reg Cmdr
19. Sultan Hashim Ahmad al Tal—Minister of Defense
20. Ayad Futayyih Khalifa al Rawi—Al Quds Force Chief of Staff
21. Zuhayr Talib Abd al Sattar al Naqib—DMI Director
22. Abd al Baqi abd Karim al Sadun —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Baghdad
23. Muhammad Zimam Abd al-Razzaq al Sadun —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Ta'mim & Ninawa Gov
24. Samir abd al Aziz al Najm —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Diyala Gov.
25. Yahya Abdallah al Ubaydi —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Basrah Gov.
26. Nayif Shindakh Thamir —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Salah ad Din Gov.
27. Sayfal al Din al Mashhadani —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Muthanna Gov.
28. Fadil Mahmud Gharib —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Babil/ Karbala Gov.
29. Muhsin Khadar al Khafaji —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Qadasiyah Gov.
30. Rashid Taan Kazim —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Anbar Governate
31. Uqla Abid Sighar al-Kubaysi —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Maysan Governate
32. Ghazi Hamud al Adib —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Wasit Gov.
33. Adil Abdallah Mahdi al Duri al Tikriti —BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Dhi Qar Governate
34. Husayn Al Awawi—BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Ninawa Governate
35. Khamis Sirhan al Muhammad—BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Karbala Governate
36. Sad Abd al Majid al-Faysal—BP Chmn & Cmdr BP Militia - Salah ad Din Gov.
37. Latif Nussayif Jasim al Dulaymi—Dep Chmn Baath Party
38. Taha Yasin Ramadan—Vice President
39. Rukan Razuki abd Al Ghafur Sulayman al Tikriti—Chief of Tribal Affairs
40. Jamal Mustafa Abdallah Sultan al Tikriti—Deputy Chief of Tribal Affairs
41. Mizban Khidir Hadi—RCC Member, Reg CDR Central Euphrates Region
42. Taha Muhyl al Din Maruf—Vice President and RCC Member
43. Tariq Aziz—Deputy Prime Minister
44. Walid Hamid Tawfiq al-Tikriti—Governor of Basrah Governate
45. Hikmat al Azzawi—Dep Prime Minister, Economics & Finance Min.
46. Mahmud Dhiyab al Ahmad—Minister of the Interior
47. Amir Rashid Muhammad al Ubaydi—Former Oil Minister
48. Muhammad Mahdi al-Salih—Minister of Trade
49. Husam Muhammad al-Yasin—National Monitoring Director
50. Sabawi Ibrahim—Baath Party, Saddam Maternal Half Brother
51. Watban Ibrahim Hasan al Tikriti—Baath Party, Saddam Half Brother
52. Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al Tikriti—Baath Party, Saddam Half Brother
53. Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash—Party Youth & Trade Bureau Chairman
54. Humam Abd al-Khaliq Abd al-Ghafur—Min of Higher Education & Scientific Research
55. Amir Hamudi Hasan al-Sadi—Presidential Scientific Adviser/ NMD Dir Gen

FALLEN WARRIORS

Here we honor those who died while serving their country in the war on terrorism.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

U.S. Army Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, Springfield, Va., April 2, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Jamaal R. Addison, 22, Roswell, Ga., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Capt. Tristan N. Aitken, 31, State College, Pa., April 4, 2003, Iraq
Pfc. Wilfred D. Bellard, 20, Lake Charles, La., April 4, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Mathew G. Boule, 22, Dracut, Mass., April 2, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Henry L. Brown, 22, Natchez, Miss., April 8, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Larry K. Brown, 22, Jackson, Miss., April 5, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. George Edward Buggs, 31, Barnwell, S.C., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. Jacob L. Butler, 24, Wellsville, Kan., April 1, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Daniel Francis J. Cunningham, 33, Lewiston, Maine, April 4, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Michael Edward Curtin, 23, South Plains, N.J., March 29, 2003, Iraq
Staff Sgt. Wilbert Davis, 40, Alaska, April 3, 2003, Iraq
Master Sgt. Robert J. Dowdy, 38, Cleveland, Ohio, March 23, 2003, Iraq
Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto, 18, El Paso, Texas, March 23, 2003, Iraq
Master Sgt. George A. Fernandez, 36, El Paso, Texas, April 3, 2003, Iraq
Chief Warrant Officer Erik A. Halvorsen, 40, Bennington, Vt., April 2, 2003, Iraq
Staff Sgt. Terry W. Hemingway, 39, Willingboro, N.J., April 10, 2003, Iraq
Chief Warrant Officer Scott Jamar, 32, Granbury, Texas, April 2, 2003, Iraq
Spc. William A. Jeffries, 39, hometown unavailable, March 26, 2003, Spain (after evacuation from Kuwait)
Pfc. Howard Johnson II, 21, Mobile, Ala., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Pvt. Devon D. Jones, 19, San Diego, Calif., April 4, 2003, Iraq
2nd Lt. Jeffrey J. Kaylor, 24, Clifton, Va., April 7, 2003, Iraq
Spc. James M. Kiehl, 22, Des Moines, Iowa, March 23, 2003, Iraq
Capt. Edward J. Korn, 31, Savannah, Ga., April 3, 2003, Iraq
Staff Sgt. Nino D. Livaudais, 23, Utah, April 3, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Ryan P. Long, 21, Seaford, Del., April 3, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. 1st Class John W. Marshall, 50, Los Angeles, Calif., April 8, 2003, Iraq
Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Villareal Mata, 35, El Paso, Texas, March 23, 2003, Iraq
Pfc. Jason M. Meyer, 23, Swartz Creek, Mich., April 8, 2003, Iraq
Pfc. Anthony S. Miller, 19, San Antonio, Texas, April 7, 2003, Iraq
Spc. George A. Mitchell, 35, Rawlings, Md., April 7, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Donald S. Oaks Jr., 20, Erie, Pa., April 3, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. Michael F. Pedersen, 26, Flint, Mich., April 2, 2003, Iraq
Pfc. Lori Ann Piestewa, 23, Tuba City, Ariz., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Pvt. Kelley S. Prewitt, 24, Alabama, April 6, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. 1st Class Randall S. Rehn, 36, Longmont, Colo., April 3, 2003, Iraq
Pfc. Diego Fernando Rincon, 19, Conyers, Ga., March 29, 2003, Iraq
Capt. Russell B. Rippetoe, 27, Colorado, April 3, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. Todd J. Robbins, 33, Pentwater, Mich., April 3, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Brandon J. Rowe, 20, Roscoe, Ill., March 31, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Gregory P. Sanders, 19, Indiana, March 24, 2003, Iraq
Capt. Christopher Scott Seifert, 27, hometown unavailable, March 22, 2003, Kuwait
Pvt. Brandon Ulysses Sloan, 19, Bedford, Ohio, March 23, 2003, Iraq
Chief Warrant Officer Eric A. Smith, 41, California, April 2, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith, 33, Tampa, Fla., April 4, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. Roderic A. Solomon, 32, Fayetteville, N.C., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Staff Sgt. Robert A. Stever, 36, Pendleton, Ore., April 8, 2003, Iraq
Spc. Brandon S. Tobler, 19, hometown unavailable, March 23, 2003, Iraq

FALLEN WARRIORS

Here we honor those who died while serving their country in the war on terrorism.

Sgt. Donald Ralph Walters, 33, Salem, Ore., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Pfc. Michael Russell Creighton Weldon, 20, Palm Bay, Fla., March 29, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. Eugene Williams, 24, Highland, N.Y., March 29, 2003, Iraq

U.S. Navy

Lt. Thomas Mullen Adams, 27, La Mesa, Calif., March 22, 2003, Over International Waters
Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michael Vann Johnson, Jr., 25, Little Rock, Ark., March 25, 2003, Iraq
Lt. Nathan D. White, 30, Mesa, Ariz., April 2, 2003, Iraq

U.S. Air Force

Staff Sgt. Scott D. Sather, 29, Clio, Mich., April 8, 2003, Iraq
Maj. Gregory Stone, 40, Boise, Idaho, March 25, 2003, Kuwait

U.S. Marine Corps

Lance Cpl. Brian E. Anderson, 26, Durham, N.C., April 2, 2003, Iraq
Maj. Jay Thomas Aubin, 36, Waterville, Maine, March 20, 2003, Kuwait
Pfc. Chad E. Bales, 20, Coahoma, Texas, April 3, 2003, Iraq
Capt. Ryan Anthony Beaupre, 30, Bloomington, Ill., March 20, 2003, Kuwait
Sgt. Michael E. Bitz, 31, Ventura, Calif., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Thomas A. Blair, 24, Wagoner, Okla., March 24, 2003, Iraq
Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey E. Bohr, Jr., 39, Ossian, Iowa, April 10, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Brian Rory Buesing, 20, Cedar Key, Fla., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Pfc. Tamario D. Burkett, 21, Buffalo, N.Y., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Staff Sgt. James W. Cawley, 41, Roy, Utah, March 29, 2003, Iraq
2nd Lt. Therrel S. Childers, 30, Harrison, Miss., March 21, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Donald J. Cline, Jr., 21, Sparks, Nev., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Capt. Aaron J. Contreras, 31, Sherwood, Ore., March 30, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Mark A. Evnin, 21, Burlington, Vt., April 3, 2003, Iraq
Capt. Travis A. Ford, 30, Ogallala, Neb., April 4, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. David K. Fribley, 26, Lee, Fla., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Jose A. Garibay, 21, Orange, Calif., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Pfc. Juan Guadalupe Garza Jr., 20, Temperance, Mich., April 8, 2003, Iraq
Pvt. Jonathan L. Gifford, 20, Macon, Ill., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Jesus A. Gonzalez, 22, Indio, Calif., April 12, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Jorge A. Gonzalez, 20, Los Angeles, Calif., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Bernard G. Gooden, 22, Mt. Vernon, N.Y., April 4, 2003, Iraq
Pfc. Christian D. Gurtner, 19, Ohio City, Ohio, April 2, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Jose Gutierrez, 22, Los Angeles, March 21, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. Nicolas M. Hodson, 22, Smithville, Mo., March 24, 2003, Iraq
Pvt. Nolen R. Hutchings, 19, Boiling Springs, S.C., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Evan T. James, 20, Hancock, Ill., March 24, 2003, Iraq
Staff Sgt. Phillip A. Jordan, 42, Brazoria, Texas, March 23, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Brian Matthew Kennedy, 25, Houston, Texas, March 20, 2003, Kuwait
Sgt. Bradley S. Korthaus, 28, Scott, Iowa, March 24, Iraq
Sgt. Michael V. Lalush, 23, Troutville, Va., March 30, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Joseph B. Maglione, 22, Lansdale, Pa., April 1, 2003, Kuwait
Pfc. Francisco A. Martinez Flores, 21, Los Angeles, Calif., March 25, 2003, Iraq

FALLEN WARRIORS

Here we honor those who died while serving their country in the war on terrorism.

Staff Sgt. Donald C. May, Jr., 31, Richmond, Va., March 25, 2003, Iraq
Marine Sgt. Brian D. McGinnis, 23, St. George, Del., March 30, 2003, Iraq
1st Lt. Brian M. McPhillips, 25, Pembroke, Mass., April 4, 2003, Iraq
Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Menusa, 33, San Jose, Calif., March 27, 2003, Iraq
Major Kevin G. Nave, 36, Union Lake, Mich., March 26, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Patrick R. Nixon, 21, Nashville, Tenn., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Patrick T. O'Day, 20, Sonoma, Calif., March 25, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Eric J. Orlowski, 26, Buffalo, N.Y., March 24, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. Fernando Padilla-Ramirez, 26, San Luis, Ariz., March 28, 2003, Iraq
2nd Lt. Frederick E. Pokorney Jr., 31, Nye, Nev., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. Brendon C. Reiss, 23, Casper, Wyo., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Sgt. Duane R. Rios, 25, Hammond, Ind., April 4, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Robert M. Rodriguez, 21, Queens, N.Y., March 27, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Randal Kent Rosacker, 21, San Diego, Calif., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Capt. Benjamin W. Sammis, 29, Rehoboth, Mass., April 4, 2003, Iraq
Cpl. Erik H. Silva, 22, Chula Vista, Calif., April 3, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Slocum, age unknown, Adams, Colo., March 23, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Jesus A. Suarez Del Solar, 20, Escondido, Calif., March 27, 2003, Iraq
Staff Sgt. Riayan A. Tejeda, 26, New York, N.Y., April 11, 2003, Iraq
Staff Sgt. Kendall Damon Watersbey, 29, Baltimore, Md., March 20, 2003, Kuwait
Lance Cpl. William W. White, 24, Brooklyn, N.Y., March 29, 2003, Iraq
Lance Cpl. Michael J. Williams, 31, Yuma, Ariz., March 23, 2003, Iraq

Operation Enduring Freedom

U.S. Army

Spc. Marc A. Anderson, 30, Brandon, Fla., March 4, 2002, Afghanistan
Sgt. Michael C. Barry, 29, Brandon, Fla., February 1, 2003, Qatar
Spc. Curtis A. Carter, 25, Lafayette, La., February 27, 2002, Kuwait
Sgt. 1st Class Nathan R. Chapman, 31, San Antonio, Texas, January 4, 2002, Afghanistan
Sgt. Steven Checo, 22, New York, December 20, 2002, Afghanistan
Spc. Brian M. Clemens, Indiana, February 7, 2003, Kuwait
Pfc. Matthew A. Commons, 21, Boulder City, Nev., March 4, 2002, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. Brian T. Craig, 27, Houston, Texas, April 15, 2002, Afghanistan
Sgt. Bradley S. Crose, 22, Orange Park, Fla., March 4, 2002, Afghanistan
Master Sgt. Jefferson D. Davis, 39, Clarksville, Tenn., December 5, 2001, Afghanistan
Spc. Jason A. Disney, 21, Fallon, Nev., February 13, 2002, Afghanistan
Pvt. James H. Ebberts, 19, Bridgeview, Ill., October 14, 2002, Djibouti, Africa
Spc. John J. Edmunds, 20, Cheyenne, Wyo., October 19, 2001, Pakistan
Sgt. Ryan D. Foraker, 31, Logan, Ohio, September 24, 2002, Guantanamo, Cuba
Sgt. Gregory M. Frampton, 37, California, January 30, 2003, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. Justin J. Galewski, 28, Olathe, Kan., April 15, 2002, Afghanistan
Chief Warrant Officer Thomas J. Gibbons, 31, Maryland, January 30, 2003, Afghanistan
Spc. Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, 26, Texas, February 24, 2003, Kuwait
Chief Warrant Officer Two Stanley L. Harriman, 34, Wade, N.C., March 2, 2002, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. Daniel L. Kisling, Jr., 31, Missouri, January 30, 2003, Afghanistan
Pvt. Giovanni Maria, 19, New York, N.Y., November 29, 2001, Uzbekistan
Sgt. Jamie O. Maugans, 27, Wichita, Kan., April 15, 2002, Afghanistan

FALLEN WARRIORS

Here we honor those who died while serving their country in the war on terrorism.

Pfc. Spence A. McNeil, 19, Bennettsville, S.C., March 8, 2003, Saudi Arabia
Chief Warrant Officer Timothy W. Moehling, 35, Florida, February 24, 2003, Kuwait
Sgt. Orlando Morales, 33, Manati, Puerto Rico, Afghanistan
Chief Warrant Officer Mark S. O'Steen, 43, Alabama, January 30, 2003, Afghanistan
Spec. Pedro Pena, 35, Fla., November 7, 2002, Kuwait
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel H. Petithory, 32, Cheshire, Mass., December 5, 2001, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. Brian C. Prosser, 28, Frazier Park, Calif., December 5, 2001, Afghanistan
Sgt. 1st Class Daniel A. Romero, 30, Lafayette, Colo., April 15, 2002, Afghanistan
Chief Warrant Officer John D. Smith, 32, Nevada, February 24, 2003, Kuwait
Sgt. 1st Class Christopher J. Speer, 28, Albuquerque, N.M., August 7, 2002, Afghanistan
Pfc. Kristofer T. Stonesifer, 28, Missoula, Mont., October 19, 2001, Pakistan
Sgt. Philip J. Svitak, 31, Joplin, Mo., March 4, 2002, Afghanistan
Spc. William J. Tracy, 27, of New Hampshire, February 24, 2003, Kuwait
Sgt. 1st Class Peter P. Tycz II, 32, Tonawanda, N.Y., June 12, 2002, Afghanistan
Sgt. Gene A. Vance Jr., 38, Morgantown, W.V., May 19, 2002, Afghanistan

U.S. Navy

Chief Petty Officer Matthew J. Bourgeois, 35, Tallahassee, Fla., March 27, 2002, Afghanistan
Machinist's Mate Fireman Apprentice Bryant L. Davis, 20, Chicago, Ill., November 7, 2001, Arabian Sea
Electrician's Mate Fireman Apprentice Michael J. Jakes Jr., 20, Brooklyn, N.Y., December 4, 2001, Northern Arabian Sea
Engineman 1st Class Vincent Parker, 38, Preston, Miss., November 18, 2001, Persian Gulf
Aviation Boatswain's Mate-Handling 1st Class Neil C. Roberts, 32, Woodland, Calif., March 4, 2002, Afghanistan
Electronics Technician 3rd Class Benjamin Johnson, 21, Rochester, N.Y., November 18, 2001, Persian Gulf U.S. Air Force Master
Sgt. Evander E. Andrews, 36, Salon, Maine, October 10, 2001, Northern Arabian Peninsula
1st Lt. Tamara Archuleta, 23, Los Lunas, N.M., March 23, 2003, Afghanistan
Tech. Sgt. John A. Chapman, 36, Waco, Texas, March 4, 2002, Afghanistan
Tech. Sgt. Sean M. Corlew, 37, Thousand Oaks, Calif., June 12, 2002, Afghanistan
Senior Airman Jason D. Cunningham, 26, Camarillo, Calif., March 4, 2002, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. Jacob L. Frazier, 24, St. Charles, Ill., March 29, 2003, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. Jason Hicks, 25, Jefferson, S.C., March 23, 2003, Afghanistan
Master Sgt. Michael Maltz, 42, St. Petersburg, Fla., March 23, 2003, Afghanistan
Senior Airman Jason Plite, 21, Lansing, Mich., March 23, 2003, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. Anissa A. Shero, 31, Grafton, W.Va., June 12, 2002, Afghanistan
Lt. Col. John Stein, 39, Bardolph, Ill., March 23, 2003, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. John Teal, 29, Dallas, Texas, March 23, 2003, Afghanistan

U.S. Marine Corps

Capt. Matthew W. Bancroft, 29, Shasta, Calif., January 9, 2002, Pakistan
Lance Cpl. Bryan P. Bertrand, 23, Coos Bay, Ore., January 9, 2002, Pakistan
Gunnery Sgt. Stephen L. Bryson, 35, Montgomery, Ala., January 9, 2002, Pakistan
Staff Sgt. Walter F. Cohee III, 26, Wicomico, Md., January 20, 2002, Afghanistan
Staff Sgt. Scott N. Germosen, 37, Queens, N.Y., January 9, 2002, Pakistan
Sgt. Nathan P. Hays, 21, Lincoln, Wash., January 9, 2002, Pakistan
Capt. Daniel G. McCollum, 29, Richland, S.C., January 9, 2002, Pakistan
Staff Sgt. Dwight J. Morgan, 24, Mendocino, Calif., January 20, 2002, Afghanistan
Lance Cpl. Antonio J. Sledd, 20, Tampa, Fla., October 8, 2002, Kuwait

U.S. packs up Patriot system in Israel

by Yoav Appel

JERUSALEM (AP) - U.S. military troops were packing up Patriot anti-missile batteries in Israel on Monday, a day after Israeli officials said there was no longer a threat of an Iraqi missile attack.

U.S. troops stationed in Jaffa were seen lowering the portable missile batteries into position for transport on trucks. Soldiers wiped off caked dirt and sand from windows of vehicles that had been standing for more than a month along the Mediterranean shore.

William Cavness, a U.S. Embassy spokesman, refused to confirm the troops were leaving but noted Israel's decision Sunday to scale back its alert status. "The threat seems to have diminished," he said.

When Israel's defense ministry announced the lower state of alert on Sunday, it noted that the U.S. military was in control of areas of

Iraq closest to Israel. Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said citizens no longer needed to carry gas masks or keep sealed rooms in their homes in case of an Iraqi biological or chemical missile attack.

Before the war in Iraq, the U.S. military stationed Patriot batteries near Israeli population centers to boost Israel's air defenses in the event of an Iraqi missile attack.

In the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel. All carried conventional warheads, causing damage but few casualties.

At the start of the current war in Iraq, Israeli officials expressed confidence that Israel's new long-range Arrow anti-missile system would stop any incoming missile. American and Israeli Patriot batteries would have been a last chance attempt to stop a missile if the Arrow system failed.



American soldiers with the 173rd Airborne division out of Vicenza, Italy, head to their vehicles as they guard an oil-gas separation facility in the northern oil fields on the outskirts of Kirkuk, northern Iraq, Saturday April 12, 2003. (AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

FALLEN WARRIORS

Here we honor those who died while serving their country in the war on terrorism.

Sgt. Jeannette L. Winters, 25, Du Page, Ill., January 9, 2002, Pakistan CIA Johnny Michael Spann, 32, Winfield, Ala., November 25, 2002, Afghanistan

Operation Enduring Freedom - Phillipines

U.S. Army Spec. Thomas F. Allison, 22, Roy, Washington, February 21, 2002

Staff Sgt. James P. Dorrity, 37, Goldsboro, N.C., February 21, 2002

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jody L. Egnor, 32, Middletown, Ohio, February 21, 2002

Maj. Curtis D. Feistner, 34, White Bear Lake, Minn., February 21, 2002

Sgt. Jeremy D. Foshee, 25, Pisgah, Ala., February 21, 2002

Staff Sgt. Kerry W. Frith, 37, Las Vegas, Nev., February 21, 2002

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Wayne Jackson, 40, of Glennie, Mich., October 2, 2002

Capt. Bartt D. Owens, 31, Middletown, Ohio, February 21, 2002

Staff Sgt. Bruce A. Rushforth, Jr., 35, Middleboro, Mass., February 21, 2002 U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. William L. McDaniel II, 29, Greenville, Ohio, February 21, 2002

Staff Sgt. Juan M. Ridout, 36, Maple Tree, Wash., February 21, 2002



Message From President Bush

My fellow citizens, when freedom needs defending, America turns to our military. I want to thank those who wear our uniform. Thank you for your sacrifice.

And as our men and women in uniform do their job, they count on their families. This time of war has been a time of hardship for many military families. Some of you have been separated from your loved ones by long deployments. You're dealing with added burdens at home while praying for your husband or wife, or son or daughter, father or mother, far from home. All of America is grateful for your sacrifice.

Over the last few weeks, the world has witnessed what you already know: that our armed forces act with great skill and great courage and great humanity. Images of the Iraqi people welcoming our troops in cities across that country are a testament to the character of our men and women in uniform. Our forces have been given a clear mission: to end a regime that threatened its neighbors and the world with weapons of mass destruction and to free a people that had suffered far too long.

American coalition forces are treating innocent civilians with kindness. Delivering urgently needed food and medicine, and acting in the highest traditions of the United States military. Our whole nation is proud of the honorable conduct of our military. And I am proud to be your Commander in Chief.

All who wear this nation's uniform have chosen to serve in America's defense and in freedom's cause. You and your families deserve the gratitude of the nation and the full support of our government. We will give you the tools and training you need to win our nation's battles, and we will keep our commitment to improving the quality of life for our military families.

This nation has made another pledge. We will never forget, the men and women who have fallen in service to America. We owe them our freedom. And we pray that their loved ones will receive God's comfort and God's grace. All of you know that great military successes comes from years of hard work, training and commitment. You stand tall in times of conflict, and you stand ready in times of peace. For your daily effort, for your professionalism and for your patriotism, I thank you on behalf of the people of the United States.

May God bless our country and all who defend her.

George W. Bush



US soldiers walk past the decapitated statue head of Saddam Hussein placed on a street sign and dressed in used clothing a garbage bag Monday April 14, 2003. The American military continue operations in Baghdad trying to secure control of the Iraqi capital. (AP Photo/ David Guttenfelder)



Road block and debris have caused confusion on the streets and highways of Baghdad. And cautious U.S. troops watch for sporadic resistance. (Sun photo by Elizabeth Malby)



A U.S. soldier walks past an over-turned sign at the Oil Ministry where they are guarding the area in Baghdad, Iraq Sunday April 13, 2003. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)



In Saddam City, a predominantly Shiite neighborhood that is also one of Baghdad's poorest areas, Iraqis cross a sewage-flooded street that some jokingly call Saddam Lake. (Baltimore Sun photo by Elizabeth Malby)



A family is checked for weapons and contraband by the U.S. Marines of the 24th Expeditionary Unit at a checkpoint, Saturday, April 12, 2003, 9 kms. (6 miles) south of the Iraq town of Kut. (AP Photo/Wally Santana)